

From the Upper Chamber



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Report for Thursday, January 25, 2007

The eighth day of the 2007 legislative session was called to order by Lieutenant Governor **Casey Cagle**.

Senator **Don Thomas** of the 54th stated that the journal had been read and was found to be correct.

Senate Bills 13, 44-50 and 52, and Senate Resolution 81 were then read for the first time and assigned to committees.

Following the morning roll call, Lt. Gov. **Cagle** recognized President Pro Tempore **Eric Johnson** of the 1st, who introduced the *Doctor of the Day*, Dr. **Michael Zoller** of Savannah.

Lt. Gov. **Cagle** then recognized Sen. **Chip Pearson** of the 51st, who led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance. Sen. **Pearson** then introduced the *Chaplain of the Day*, Pastor **Austin Gardner** of Vision Baptist Church in Alpharetta, who led the Senate in the daily devotional.

There were no unanimous consents.

There were no Points of Personal Privilege.

Sergeant-at-Arms **Lorenzo Wallace** escorted Senators **Seth Harp** of the 29th and **Ed Harbison** of the 15th and their guests, the Columbus Northern Little League Team, to the rostrum.

The Secretary then read SR 50, which recognizes and congratulates the Columbus Northern Little League Team on winning the Little League Baseball World Series.

Sens. **Harp** and **Harbison** then took the rostrum to speak to the resolution, commending the team for their championship victory.

The Sergeant-at-Arms **Wallace** and Sen. **Ralph Hudgens** of the 47th escorted **Michael Carmean**, President of the Georgia Associations of Health Underwriters, and **David Johnson**, head of the association's legislative committee, to the rostrum.

The Secretary then read SR 54, which commends the Georgia Associations of Health Underwriters and its nine local chapters. Sen. **Hudgens** took the rostrum to introduce Mr. **Carmean**, who thanked the Senate for its recognition.

Sergeant-at-Arms **Wallace** then escorted Sen. **Bill Heath** of the 31st and his guests, the Bremen High School Varsity Competitive Cheerleading Squad, to the rostrum.

The Secretary read SR 51, which commends the cheerleading squad for achieving Class A at the Georgia High School Association state competition. Sen. **Heath** took the rostrum to congratulate the squad.

SR 75-80 and 82-84 were then read and adopted.

The Secretary read SB 11, which provides that judges of superior and state courts who are performing ordered military duty may continue in office and be eligible for re-election during such duty. Sen. **David Shafer** of the 48th took the well to present the bill.

SB 11 passed by a vote of 52 to 0.

The Secretary then read SB 18, which adds municipal courts to the list of courts that may charge additional filing fees for civil actions and cases filed to fund alternative dispute programs. Sen. **Harp** took the well to present the bill.

SB 18 passed by a vote of 38 to 0.

SB 18 passed by substitute with a vote of 51 to 0.

The Senate then recognized U.S. Congressman **Lynn Westmoreland**, who was escorted to the rostrum by Sens. **Mitch Seabaugh** of the 28th, **John Douglas** of the 17th, **Harp**, **Bill Hamrick** of the 30th, **Heath**, **George Hooks** of the 14th, **Emanuel Jones** of the 10th and **Valencia Seay** of the 34th. Sen. **Seabaugh** took the rostrum to introduce Congressman **Westmoreland**, who greeted the Senate.

Following the announcements, Majority Leader **Tommie Williams** of the 19th moved that the Senate stand adjourned until 9:00 a.m., Friday, January 26.

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